

Ministerial Remarks by Hon. Anna Shiwenda, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry delivered during the introduction of Kalimbeza Rice to fellow members of Namibia Parliament on 08th October 2015 at the Parliament Garden.

Date: 8 October 2015

Venue: Parliament garden

Honourable fellow members of parliament

Chairperson of AGRIBUSDEV Board

Executives from various invited Institutions

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. We are here today to share with the Honourable members the result from one of our Green Scheme Project, namely Kalimbeza Rice project in the Zambezi region. Kalimbeza Project started with rice research as early as 1987 on a smaller farming scale. The production by then was meant only for local community, after independence the project was re-assessed and found to be significant to add value to the national agricultural production. In 2007 MAWF in conjunction with the University of Namibia worked hard to conduct all scientific procedures that elevated the status quo of the project to serious production.
2. After a number of statutory procedures concluded, such as certification by Namibia Standard Institute that all made assurance of the product consumption, the product was officially launched by our Honourable Minister on the 25 October 2015.
3. To date the current size of the project is 229 hectares, of which 144 hectares is suitable for rice cultivation. Before the commercialization of the product, cultivation was conducted on 40 hectares yielding roughly 70-75 metric tonnes. The current season, we plan to plant the produce on a full scale (144 hectares) forecasted to yield roughly 250-300 metric tonnes.
4. Three varieties of rice are currently being produced on the project, the long, medium and short grain with the 4th variety being tested on a smaller scale. We are consulting with the Traditional authority to develop additional land earmarked for the extension of the project, and to commence with phase 2. All of this is necessary to increase the volume of rice.
5. Honourable members allow me to highlight that so far the new rice, ~~the new rice~~ processing machine was procured and installed, the rice trans-planters were ordered due for arrival mid October 2015. Since the commercialization of the product, Kalimbeza rice received overwhelming interest by Namibians on individual's levels, retailer shops and few local resort camps and hotels.

6. At present the rice could be purchased at the following places: Kalimbeza Project Rundu and Ongwediva Fresh Hubs and Sikondo Irrigation Project
7. In taking the project forward more funding will be required to expand the project and for that we will be counting on the full support of the house.

All in all I trust that you will enjoy our meal!